

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) A fingertip-mounted minimally invasive surgical instrument comprising:

a) a finger mount, having a proximal and distal end, and a cavity for releasably receiving a fingertip; [[and]]

b) an ultrasonic transducer and receiver positioned on the distal end of the finger mount; and

c) a tactile feedback transducer positioned within the cavity for contact with the fingertip.

2.(original) The fingertip-mounted minimally invasive surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a pressure switch located at the distal end of the finger mount.

3.(canceled)

4.(original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the transducer is a crystal array.

5.(currently amended) A method of performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure in a patient comprising:

a) creating an incision to permit hand access within the patient;

b) introducing a hand instrument comprising:

i) a finger mount, having a proximal and distal end, and a cavity for releasably receiving a fingertip; [[and]]

ii) an ultrasonic transducer and receiver positioned on [the distal end of] the finger mount; and

iii) a tactile feedback transducer positioned within the cavity for contact with the fingertip; and

c) actuating the transducer to sense a operational site within the patient.

6.(original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of releasably engaging a finger with the hand instrument.

7.(original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of activating the transducer to image the surgical site

8.(original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of actuating the transducer to provide therapeutic effects to the surgical site.